



NORTH WITCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1947.

MR. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1947 on the health conditions of your district during that period.

I also present the Sanitary Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE GENERAL HEALTH of the district has been good. There was an epidemic of Measles. Fortunately it was of a mild nature and there were no deaths.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

(i) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health—CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector—H. BURTON, A.R.S.I.

(ii) Nursing in the Home.

The entire district has the services of Trained Nurses under the control of local Associations.

(iii) Hospitals.

Voluntary subscriptions enable patients to obtain treatment at Cambridge, Peterborough and at the County Hospital, Doddington.

(iv) Ambulance Facilities.

Doddington, Wimblington and Benwick have the use of the Chatteris and Whittlesey ambulances. Manea has its own. All give first rate service.

(v) Child Welfare.

Clinics are held at Doddington and Manea. Benwick still has no Clinic. I trust this will be remedied in the near future.

Statistics:

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births	83	37	46
Still Births	4	2	2
Illegitimate	8	5	3
Deaths	49	27	22
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	1	1	—

The Causes of Death were:

Heart Diseases	16
Other Circulatory Diseases	3
Intracranial Vascular Diseases	4
Cancer	11
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia	1
Whooping Cough	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1
Nephritis	1
Suicide	1
Other Violent Causes	1
All other Causes	4

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1946.
For the Rural District of North Witchford.

Disease.	Total Notified.	Deaths.
Measles	68	0
Pneumonia	9	1
Whooping Cough	27	1
Meningitis	3	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Catarrhal Jaundice	1	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year 12 inspections were made to factories. Two defects were reported by H.M. Inspector and duly remedied. No outworkers are employed.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out during 1947.

Public Health Acts: Nuisances	47
Housing Act, Disrepair	129
Overcrowding	4
Cowsheds	22
Dairies	17
Bakehouses	9
Food Preparing Premises	13
Factories and Workshops	12
Refuse Accommodation	38
Sanitary Conveniences	48
Drain Inspections	70
Sewage Disposal (Beds and Dykes)	62
Water Supply	101
Moveable Dwellings	2
Petroleum Inspections	20
Piggeries	4
Garages	12
Greenhouses	6
Rats and Mice (including N.S. 12 Scheme)	502
Houses disinfected	3
Houses in Course of Erection—visits	57
Night Soil Collection	29
Street Gullies	6
Vermin	4
Poultry Houses	6
Stables	11
Yards—paved	2
Miscellaneous, interviews and meetings	326
	<hr/> 1562 <hr/>

Defects found and remedied.	Found.	Remedied.
Housing and Public Health—Disrepair	118	112
Nuisances from:—Choked drains	26	26
Sanitary Accommodation	21	19
Refuse Accommodation	8	8
	<hr/> 173 <hr/>	<hr/> 165 <hr/>

Milk and Dairies Order.

Contraventions found	11
Contraventions remedied	10

NORTH WITCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1947.

Housing.

During the year two houses were submitted to the Council for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. In one case (house unoccupied) Section 11 was enforced and in the other case an undertaking was accepted.

The Council had twenty permanent houses under construction at the end of the year. In addition ten prefabricated houses were completed and occupied, with five others under construction.

Private enterprise completed eleven houses and had thirteen others under construction.

Many defects were dealt with informally under the Public Health Act, 1936 and in no case was it found necessary to serve a Statutory notice.

Building Licences.

During 1947 the Council issued 245 building licences and in each case the premises were visited before the application forms were submitted to the Council.

In addition 74 plans were submitted and approved under the local bye-laws.

Water Supply.

The following is a summary of the information asked for by the Ministry in Circular 170/47.

(1) The quantity and quality of the piped supply at Doddington and Wimblington is satisfactory. Pressure at Manea is best during the evenings though there has been a slight increase in pressure during the day recently. The remaining village, Benwick, has no piped supply and is entirely dependent upon roof water, plus a few private wells, some of which are suspicious from a point of view of pollution. During the year 20,300 gallons of water were carted to Benwick.

(2) No samples of water were taken during the year from the piped supply, the Wisbech Water Company being known to take their own samples. Two samples of water were taken from pumps in Doddington, one of which belonged to the County Hospital. Both samples were reported by the Analyst to be unsatisfactory and consequently the owner provided a piped supply in one case, whilst the Hospital discontinued using their pump, which had been used as an emergency only. When the water main was extended to the pre-fabricated housing site in Eastalls Road, Doddington, ten other dwellings were able to connect to the main.

(3) The local supply of water is not plumbo-solvent.

(4) No action was necessary in respect of any contamination.

(5) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:—

Parish.	Direct to houses.	By standpipe.
Wimblington	84%	2½%
Doddington	55%	2 %
Manea and Welches Dam	87%	9 %
Benwick	—	—

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage beds at Wimblington and Doddington have been working fairly efficiently and so far have given rise to no complaints.

The acquisition of a smoke testing machine has proved of inestimable value. During the year 29 drain tests were made, using the smoke test and a total of 1,189 four inch pipes were tested. As in the previous year more pail closets were converted to water closets and I tentatively hope that this good progress will carry on.

Public Cleansing.

Night soil is still collected by contract and utilised on the land, few complaints arising from this method. Tins and other indestructible refuse are collected monthly, dumped in tips and properly covered over.

Milk and Dairies.

There are now 30 cowkeepers in the area, most of them being wholesale traders. Two supplementary licences were issued for the sale of Pasteurised milk and one for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk. There is now one licence in force for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk.

15 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, only four of which were described by the Bacteriologist as "having failed to satisfy the prescribed tests."

Meat and Food Inspection.

Meat supplied to this area is killed in the adjoining urban area where it is inspected at the time of slaughter. No routine inspection of food is therefore made in this area. Small amounts of tinned foodstuffs were condemned during the year.

Moveable Dwellings.

Two licences were issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of land for two moveable dwellings.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The N.S. 12 scheme was completed by June, 1947 and over 800 premises were inspected, treatment following where necessary. In proportion, few dead rats were found in this small but widely scattered area. In consequence an attack has been made upon the sewage dykes, but here again few dead rats have been found. Once again a percentage of the Council's manholes have been baited, none of the baits being taken.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

During the year three more shops were registered under the above Act for the sale of ice cream.

H. BURTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

10th June, 1948.

